

Supporting Statement

Introduction: This is to request OMB renewed three-year approved clearance for the information collection entitled Emergency Relief Funding Applications (OMB Control No. 2125-0525).

Part A. Justification

1. Circumstances that make collection of information necessary:

States are required to submit an application for emergency relief (ER) funds to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to receive Federal-aid highway disaster assistance. The law on the ER program, 23 U.S.C. 125(a) (Attachment A), requires a finding by the Secretary of Transportation that the damage is sufficiently serious to warrant Federal funding for repairs. In order to make this determination, the Secretary relies on the information provided in the State's application for disaster assistance. The authority and responsibility of the Federal Highway Administrator to prescribe policies and procedures for the proper submission of information necessary to allow this determination is established at 23 U.S.C. 315 (Attachment B).

This information collection supports the DOT Strategic Goal of Mobility by providing a mechanism by which States may receive Federal-aid highway funds to maintain accessible and efficient travel.

2. How, by whom, and for what purpose is the information used:

State Transportation Departments (State DOTs) and equivalent highway agencies in the District of Columbia, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Territories of Guam, the Virgin Islands and American Samoa submit ER applications to the FHWA for review and approval. The total number of potential respondents is 56 (50 State DOTs and 6 equivalent highway agencies). Once the application is accepted by FHWA, the State may be reimbursed with Federal funds. Without the information, an ER funding determination cannot be made.

3. Extent of automated information collection:

Electronic transmission is not practical for this information collection due to the need for photographs and maps that accompany the application.

4. Efforts to identify duplication:

This information collection requirement does not duplicate any other requirements.

5. Efforts to minimize the burden on small businesses:

There is no impact on small businesses.

6. Impact of less frequent collection of information:

Each ER application is a one-time submission triggered by an ER-eligible disaster. Once this is approved, further reporting is not required. The FHWA could not approve the payment of ER funds to the State(s) based on a less frequent collection of this information.

7. Special circumstances:

There are no special circumstances related to this information collection.

8. Compliance with 5 CFR 1320.8:

A Federal Register notice was published on March 1, 2011, which solicited public comments on the intention of the FHWA to seek renewal of this information collection. No comments were received.

9. Payments or gifts to respondents:

No payments or gifts are provided to the respondents.

10. Assurance of confidentiality:

None of the information is considered confidential as it is all available to the public.

11. Justification for collection of sensitive information:

There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

12. Estimate of burden hours for information requested:

An average of 30 annual ER applications are developed and submitted by the State DOTs described in item 2 above. Development and submittal of the application, including the field report required by 23 CFR 668.111(b) (Attachment C), is a one-time effort. The amount of time required depends on the nature of the event, among other things, and varies widely among applications by the same State as well as among States. On the average, it is estimated to require approximately 190 hours of professional staff time (engineering inspections and background documentation) plus 60 hours of administrative support staff time (typing and editing) for a total of 250 hours per application. The estimated average annual burden for all respondents per year is 7,500 hours (30 annual applications x 250 hours each).

The average respondent's salaries associated with these burden hours are calculated as follows:

Professional staff time:	5,700 hours @ \$35/hour = \$ 199,500
Administrative Support staff time:	1,800 hours @ \$23/hour = \$ 41,400
	Total = \$ 240,900

13. Estimate of total annual costs to respondents:

There is an estimated total cost to all respondents of \$275 to cover printing and miscellaneous office costs associated with documenting the emergency incident.

14. Estimate of cost to the Federal government:

There are no costs other than Federal government salaries.

15. Explanation of program changes or adjustments:

There are no program changes for this information collection.

16. Publication of results of data collection:

None of the information collected is to be published.

17. Approval for not displaying the expiration date of OMB approval:

No such approval is being requested.

18. Exceptions to certification statement:

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.